

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENOA 00342 131558Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
/077 W

-----041694 140259Z /66

R 131430Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL GENOA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2276
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL TURIN
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

UNCLAS GENOA 0342

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: LIGURIA VOTES ON REFERENDA ... DISCRIMINATINGLY

1. IN STEP WITH THE NATIONAL TREND, LIGURIA VOTED AGAINST THE REPEAL OF BOTH THE REALE PUBLIC ORDER LAW AND THE LAW FOR PUBLIC FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES. HOWEVER, IT VOTED MORE DECISIVELY THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR THE RETENTION OF THE FORMER (79% AS AGAINST 76.7%) AND LESS DECISIVELY FOR THE RETENTION OF THE LATTER (54% AS AGAINST 56%). THE PROVINCE OF IMPERIA, THE ONLY ONE OF THE FOUR LIGURIAN PROVINCES WHICH IS STILL UNDER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC RULE, ACTUALLY VOTED FOR THE REPEAL OF PARTY FINANCING LAW (54% FOR REPEAL).

2. THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES A BREAKDOWN OF THE VOTE ON THE TWO REFERENDA IN THE FOUR LIGURIAN PROVINCES. (THE YES VOTE IS FOR REPEAL, THE NO VOTE IS AGAINST REPEAL OF THE LAWS).

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PAGE 02 GENOA 00342 131558Z

	PARTY FINANCING LAW		REALE LAW	
& OF VOTERS	YES	NO	YES	NO
LA SPEZIA				
TOTAL PROVINCE	87	36.56%	63.43%	17.86% 82.13%
GENOA				
TOTAL PROVINCE	82	46.78%	53.21%	22.48% 77.51%

SAVONA

TOTAL PROVINCE 86 46.07& 53.92& 21.44& 78.55&

IMPERIA

TOTAL PROVINCE 82 53.57& 46.42& 25.66& 74.33&

TOTAL LIGURIA 84 46.05& 53.94& 20.95& 79.04&

COMMENT: THE LIGURIAN MESSAGE, EXPRESSED IN THE TWO REFERENDA, APPEARS TO BE QUITE CLEAR: STRONG SUPPORT FOR TOUGH PUBLIC ORDER LAWS, BUT LUKEWARM, THIN ACCEPTANCE -- IN THE CASE OF IMPERIA DOWNRIGHT REJECTION -- OF PUBLIC FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES. IN SUM, THE VOTE AGAIN CONFIRMED THE 'CONSERVATIVE' MOOD THAT HAS BEEN APPARENT IN LIGURIA EVER SINCE THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS OF LAST DECEMBER AND WHICH WAS EVEN MORE DRAMATICALLY REVEALED IN THE PARTIAL LOCAL ELECTION OF MAY 14. THAT MOOD FAVORS THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND PENALIZES THE COMMUNISTS. IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER THIS MOOD REPRESENTS A FIRM AND LASTING ELECTORAL TREND, AND, MUCH MORE IMPORTANT, WHETHER OR WHEN IT WILL BE PUT TO A TEST. DI SCIULLO

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TAGS: PINT, IT
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